



# RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

Saturday, May 2, 2020

**RACE 1:**

**5 TURN OF EVENTS** is turning back to a mile after making a 4-wide bid and flattening out when finish 4<sup>th</sup> going a mile and a sixteenth last out. Trainer Mike Maker has Luis Saez handling the son of Hard Spun.

**7 EAST LEX**, another from Mike Maker, is debuting locally after a sharp outing on the Fair Grounds turf in which he broke from Post 14, stalked the pace, and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> at 33-1; Emisael Jaramillo rides this half of the uncoupled entry. **10 HERO D'ORO**, a \$1.2 million-dollar son of Medaglia d'Oro, is debuting on the turf for trainer Chad Brown after failing to fire in his maiden special weight debut going a mile on the main track. Trainer Brown is 26% with the dirt to turf angle.

**SELECTIONS: 5-7-10**

**RACE 2:**

**7 LUCKYTOBEINAMERICA** is sitting on a winning performance after responding to the dropdown to this level and distance with a stalk-the-pace 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish. Trainer Dom Schettino has Tyler Gaffalione in the saddle again. **8 GRAN CAUSEWAY** renews the rivalry with the top choice after shaking off a pinball start (bumped) to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11-1. Trainer Mauricio Fuentes has apprentice Mario Fuentes named to ride this family affair. **2 KING'S CASTLE** drops to the \$8,000 level after the consistent campaign in the Midwest before the layoff. The gelding debuts locally for trainer Antonio Sano with Edgard Zayas named to ride this unknown quantity.

**SELECTIONS: 7-8-2**

**RACE 3:**

**4 OR'EFFICE** was ultra-sharp when responding to the addition of blinkers with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish at this level and distance. Trainer Mark Hennig has Luis Saez named on the \$725,000 son of Medaglia d'Oro. **1 AJHAR**, formerly in the Kiaran McLaughlin barn, the \$800,000 son of Tapit, stretches out to a mile and a sixteenth after rallying to finish 5<sup>th</sup> going 8 and 6 furlongs, respectively, during February. Todd Pletcher takes over the training, and has Irad Ortiz Jr handling the added distance.

**7 NEWSWORTHY** is a son of Tapit debuting for trainer Bill Mott with a series of bullet workouts showing over the Payson Park training track; Edgard Zayas rides.

**SELECTIONS: 4-1-7**

**RACE 4:**

**1 TEENAGE KICKS** is eligible to take a positive step forward after responding to the dropdown to the \$50,000 level with a late moving 3<sup>rd</sup> at the distance. Trainer Rodolphe Brisset has Irad Ortiz Jr handling the inside post. **9 SHE SO NAUGHTY** is a daughter of Congrats debuting for trainer Todd Pletcher with Lasix, and steady workman-like training pattern showing at Palm Beach Downs. The sophomore gets Lasix, and has Edgard Zayas handling the outside post. **3 INVALUABLE** is a daughter of Include debuting for trainer Mark Casse with Lasix, and Paco Lopez named to ride. The bullet gate work at Palm Meadows in 48 & 4 should have her primed and ready to show some early interest out of the gate.

**SELECTIONS: 1-9-3**

**RACE 5:**

**7 SILENT TIGER** is stretching out to three-quarters of a mile after responding to slight drop in competition with a duel-for-the-lead 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish going 5 ½ furlongs. Trainer Victor Barboza Jr has Tyler Gaffalione in the saddle again. **4 FINNEGAN (IRE)** is plunging to the \$6,250 level after facing tougher competition before the 16-month layoff. Trainer Wesley Ward has the gelding working steadily for the return. **5 VALDOCCO** is stretching out to three-quarters of a mile after dueling with Silent Tiger and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in front of him when they hooked up at 5 ½ furlongs last out.

**SELECTIONS: 7-4-5**

**RACE 6:**

**5 CUSTOMEREXPERIENCE**, now in the Saffie Joseph Jr barn, the daughter of Cairo Prince drops to the \$50,000 level after showing promise vs tougher in New York, including the debut maiden victory at the \$75,000 level; Paco Lopez rides. **2 SWEETHEART DEAL** is making her sophomore debut after the solid 2-year-old campaign in which she broke her maiden at the \$50,000 level, and followed that up with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish in the Desert Vixen Division of the Fla Sire Stakes. Trainer Fernando Abreu has Irad Ortiz Jr named to ride. **3 LORILOUPIES**, another from trainer Saffie Joseph Jr, is making her first start since responding to the addition of Lasix with a much the best \$50,000 maiden victory going 6 ½ furlongs; Emisael Jaramillo rides.

**SELECTIONS: 5-2-3**

**RACE 7:**

**1 HANDSOME LIL DEVIL** is dropping into this 'non-winners of 2-lifetime' claimer after facing tougher with some success in a trio of \$25,000 optional claimers on the turf. Trainer Patrick Biancone has Joe Bravo handling the inside draw. **3 POSITIVE PHIL** is cutting back to 7 ½ furlongs after looking like he was going to score before doing another chandelier impression when hanging in the stretch again last out. The turnback to this distance looks like a positive move for Phil. **6 LOOKIN AT ROSES**, a solid 2<sup>nd</sup> at this level 2 starts back, drops, and adds blinkers, after coming up empty vs \$30,000 '2-lifetime' claimers going a mile last out. Trainer Guadalupe Preciado, who has 2 in the field (7 Ole Mole), has Irad Ortiz Jr handling this half of the uncoupled entry.

**SELECTIONS: 1-3-6****RACE 8:**

**3 KID BOURBON** is going back to the main track after making a 6-wide move to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> vs allowance company going a 2-turn mile on the turf. Trainer Mark Hennig, 20% with the grass-to-dirt angle, has Paco Lopez handling the surface switch. **2 OVERDELIVER**, a sharp winner at the distance 2 starts back, stretches out after rallying from far back to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> vs \$35,000 optional claimers going 7 furlongs. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has Irad named to ride. **6 GUMP**, another from Saffie Joseph Jr, stretches out to a mile after pressing the pace and finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> behind stablemate Overdeliver when they hooked up at 7 furlongs last out.

**SELECTIONS: 3-2-6****RACE 9: THE HONEY RYDER**

**1 ENVOUTANTE** is going back to the turf after the impressive maiden victory going a mile and a sixteenth on the main track. The \$250,000 daughter of Uncle Mo, has speed, the rail, and the breeding, needed to use the inside post to her advantage. **2 HIGHLAND GLORY**, a full-sister to Grade 1 stakes-placed Highland Sky, is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after following her maiden score going 8 furlongs with a late-closing victory in the 1-mile \$100,000 Sanibel Island. Trainer Barclay Tagg has Luis Saez atop the one to beat. **12 SEDUCER** is expected to show more after returning from the layoff and finishing a disappointing 9<sup>th</sup> – as the favorite – in the Sanibel Island. Trainer Christophe Clement has Irad Ortiz Jr handling the stretchout to 8 ½ furlongs.

**SELECTIONS: 1-2-12****RACE 10: THE BIG DRAMA**

**3 NETWORK EFFECT** is cutting back to 7 furlongs (1-1-0-0) after returning from the layoff to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> – as the favorite – going a mile vs \$62,500 optional claimers.

Trainer Chad Brown has Irad atop the multiple graded stakes-placed son of Mark Valeski. **6 HE HATE ME** is wheeling back after breaking from the outside (Post 10), stalking the pace, and finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> behind impressive winner Verkoma in the Sir Shackleton. Trainer Stan Hough has Luis Saez in the saddle. **7 NOBLE DRAMA** is back at his favorite racing venue after his 2-race win streak, which included a victory in the \$200,000 Sunshine Millions Classic, ended when he came up empty behind Trophy Chaser in the Grade 3 Challenger at Tampa; Paco rides for trainer David Fawkes.

**SELECTIONS: 3-6-7****RACE 11: THE ENGLISH CHANNEL**

**8 PROVEN STRATEGIES**, who was beaten 2 lengths in the Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf during November, has flashed his class after posting back-to-back victories over this course. Trainer Mark Casse has Dylan Davis atop the son of Sky Mesa.

**10 ISLAND COMMISH** is making his first start since following back-to-back victories on the GP West turf with a driving victory here in the Grade 3 Kitten's Joy during January. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has Paco Lopez going for his 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive victory on the son of Commissioner. **4 GUFO**, a half-brother to \$1.7 million earner Hogy, makes his stakes debut after rallying strongly to defeat \$75,000 optional claimers going 9 furlongs here last out. Trainer Christophe Clement has Irad handling the turnback to 8 ½ furlongs.

**SELECTIONS: 8-10-4****RACE 12:**

**5 LA INCONDICIONAL** is stepping up to face open-competition after drawing clear to defeat \$14,000 'non-winners of 3-lifetime' claimers going a mile last out. Trainer Rohan Crichton has Paco going for 2 in a row.

**10 HOTTY TODDY** is dropping to the \$16,000 level, and getting the services of Irad Ortiz Jr, after making a 6-wide charge to finish 4<sup>th</sup> – beaten 1 ¼ lengths – vs \$20,000 state-bred optional claimers going a mile for trainer Carlos David. **4 BRITESIDEOFTHEROAD** is dropping to this level, and stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth (6-2-1-1), after the chase-and-fade outing vs a solid group of \$25,000 optional claimers. The daughter of The Factor is worth a flyer at a price.

**SELECTIONS: 5-10-4****BEST BET: RACE 8 – 3 KID BOURBON****LONGSHOT: RACE 11 – 8 PROVEN STRATEGIES**